PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Time does fly, indeed! Here we are at the half way mark of 1960, but to we of the Hibiscus Society it is just beginning. The annual membership meeting is just over and three lovely shows have joined the roster of things well done.

In mingling with the lovely folk who make up the American Hibiscus Society, it seems to me that Florenz Ziegfeld, best expressed our thoughts, if you will permit me to take a little liberty with his now famous: "The lovliest girls in the world pass through these portals." That is what was over the door of the Winter Garden Theatre in New York, however over our door, I would say: "The lovliest folks in the world belong to the Hibiscus Society."

There is a sort of special grace that comes to one through gardening and that inner satisfaction shows right through our members. Sometimes there is an unhappy moment, when just plain folks shows through and a foible or two rears up its head, but the great leveling influence of friends, deep-rooted sincerity and respect soon puts things to rights and any little cloud in the sky is forgotten,....washed right out of the firmament by friendship, patience and the basic, underlying love of beauty, whose hand-maiden is courtesy.

The beautiful blooms we see displayed in so many exquisite ways in our shows bespeak something for the community by which they are shown and the tireless effort of flower lovers, that is of such priceless advantage to the place so blessed. How poor indeed, is the community that does not have such a group..... that does not have the gentle folk that bring forth these things of beauty, which leaves such a lasting stamp of grace upon those enjoying these beautiful expressions.

Latent in every community there is such a group, I am sure. I do hope that every chapter of our Society can bring a special new flower to our next membership meeting in the form of a new chapter....a new chapter that they have awakened and made aware that nothing, but just nothing, can bring out so much friendliness and fun as we are enjoying.

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To me, the American Hibiscus Society is a huge and resplendent boquet of the loviest people ever known. If you are busy growing flowers you will forget to be petty. Just as small children have to be employed constantly, so do older persons need to keep active. Flowers have a way of lifting one out of themselves and above the small things spawned from lonliness. There are friends in the American Hibiscus Society awaiting all of you out there that need awakening and the love of good neighbors. Come bring your flowers and warm your hearts at the hearthside of our Society. And fellow members, it is basic courtesy to make strangers warmly welcome and aware that in this group the deep satisfaction of beauty and pleasant companionship is theirs for the having.

Bruce Parnell, Pic Thompson and our Executive Secretary, James E. Monroe, are starting just such a project come July 24th at the Haven Hotel in Winter Haven. They are going to share their knowledge of Hibiscus and their love of beauty with their neighbors. You can do it too. I hope every chapter catches a spark of inspiration from these three wonderful people and that the end result is a new chapter for every chapter.

- S. L. Shepard

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BASS NURSERY

Miami 37, Florida 82 NW 34th St. Phone FR 3-2743

I am now growing the best of the older varieties of hibiscus for people are again asking for these old favorites. I also have most to the good new hybrids. I have some new plants that are my own hybrids. I now have a number of the more popular varieties in egg cans. In October I expect to have a number of varieties grown on their own root in quart cans. On orders of 15 or more plants, I will pack for shipping for an additional charge of 15¢ per plant. The most of my plants are in gallon cans and are well grown. Send for price list.

When in Miami - - - come by.